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SECURITY COUNCIL
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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Letter dated 6 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In the context of the general debate on agenda item 72 (b), I have the honour to request you to circulate as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council the statement made by the Government of the Republic of the Congo following the political changes that have taken place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) (see annex).

(Signed) Daniel ABIBI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

Statement made on 21 May 1997 by the Government of the Republic of the Congo

The relations between the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are long-standing, fraternal and multifaceted relations. It is in the context of these relations that the Government of the Republic of the Congo has made efforts on the bilateral and multilateral levels to seek a peaceful solution to the crisis the Democratic Republic of the Congo has experienced.

The President of the Republic, Professor Pascal Lissouba, has made a personal commitment to these efforts, constantly reaffirming his complete conviction that peace and security in the Democratic Republic of the Congo rest on protecting and strengthening democracy, as well as on participatory systems of governance.

Today, the Government of the Republic of the Congo welcomes the efforts made by the fraternal people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its new authorities to avoid a social and political climate of revenge.

The Republic of the Congo, which holds the chairmanship of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, solemnly reaffirms, on the basis of the Brazzaville Declaration of 6 December 1996 by the Summit of Heads of State and Government, that the establishment of peace and fraternal coexistence among the peoples of our subregion is a guarantee of democracy and of development.

Accordingly, the Government of the Republic of the Congo takes note of the accession to power of the new political authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and expresses its full readiness to support their efforts at reconstruction in democracy.

The Government of the Republic of the Congo appeals to the international community to enable it to cope with the massive influx of refugees into its territory and thus create conditions for their return to their countries of origin.

Lastly, the Government of the Republic of the Congo reasserts its determination to maintain the blood ties and links of fraternity that unite the peoples of the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.